Assistance for development of wasteland

1670. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAPART has given assistance for developing wasteland, creating-water and food security improving environment and generating employment opportunities in the country.

(b) if so, the number of such projects sanctioned in various States and funds sanctioned to each of such project; and

(c) the area of land that will be treated by such projects in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURAYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Potable water under Swajaldhara Programme

†1671. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide funds for the arrangement of potable water in all the village inhabitations under Swajaldhara Programme;

(b) if so, by when the sanction would be accorded;

(c) whether Government are considering to reduce the public welfare fund from ten per cent to five per cent on economical basis in the tribal dominated inhabitations; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Water being a State subject, State Governments are primarily responsible to provide drinking water to rural habitations. Government of India supplement the efforts of State Governments by extending financial and technical assistance to States under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). As per ARWSP Guidelines, upto 20% of annual ARWSP allocation may be utilized for institutionalization of community participation in rural water supply programme including Swajaldhara schemes. Each year funds are

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.